

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 COME-00 MC-02 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8518

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 14767

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER'S PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT

REF: NEW DELHI 14766

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE PARAGRAPH ON INDO-US RELATIONS FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S DECEMBER 6 STATEMENT IN THE RAJYA SABHA:
"SIR, NOW I WILL SAY A FEW WORDS, BEFORE I CLOSE, ABOUT OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THE HOUSE MAY RECALL THAT, A LITTLE OVER A YEAR AGO, ON 30TH NOVEMBER, 1972, I STATED IN THE RAJYA SABHA THAT WE WOULD DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO NORMALISE AND STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY, RECIPROCITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT. I AM GLAD TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT IN THE POST-1971 PERIOD BOTH INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE MADE CONSCIOUS AND DELIBERATE EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT OUR MUTUAL RELATIONS IMPROVE. I WAS ABLE TIN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NEW SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. HENRY KISSINGER IN WASHINGTON. WE HAVE ALSO NOTED THAT IN HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN SEPTEMBER 1973 DR. KISSINGER RECOGNIZED INDIA'S ROLE AS
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OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD WHOSE GROWTH AND

STABILITY IS ESSENTIAL TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT IS PERTINENT TO POINT OUT THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF PL-480 FUNDS ARE MAKING SATISFACTORY PROGRESS AND WE HOPE THAT IT WOULD SOON BE RESOLVED TO THE MUTUAL SATISFACTION OF THE TWO SIDES. OUR ASSESSMENT IS THAT INDO-U.S. RELATIONS HAVE ENTERED A PHASE WHERE CONSTRUCTIVE, COOPERATIVE, AND MATURE RELATIONSHIP CAN BE BUILT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. ON TWO RECENT OCCASIONS WE HAVE REITERATED THAT DURABLE PEACE IN THIS REGION CONTINUES TO BE THE PRIME OBJECTIVE OF OUR POLICY, NOT ONLY IN THE SUB-CONTINENT, NOT ONLY WITH PAKISTAN, BUT PEACE GENERALLY IN THE REGION. WE ARE GRATIFIED TO NOTE THAT OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS HAVE A BETTER APPRECIATION OF THIS POLICY, INCLUDING THE FACT THAT SUPPLY OF ARMS TO PAKISTAN, WHETHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, CAN BE A MAJOR ELEMENT IMPEDING THE PROCESS OF NORMALISATION. IT IS OUR EARNEST HOPE THAT, KEEPING IN VIEW THE STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION IN THE SUB-CONTINENT, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE ALL STEPS TO HELP THE PROCESS AND NOT TAKE MEASURES WHICH ADVERSELY AFFECT IT."MOYNIHAN

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